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tence in vulgar American English and in the Irish dialect indicates.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, however, this sound must have died out, as no orthographist of that period recognizes it, and the *oi* was fully restored in the words where (*ði*) had been used for about a century, though not to the exclusion of the former. Sweet says it was the spelling which "caused the reaction against the pronunciations (b $\ddot{a}$ il, p $\ddot{o}$ izen), etc."

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ANGLO-SAXON GRAMMAR.

Abriss der angelsächsischen Grammatik, von EDUARD SIEVERS. Halle a.S.: Max Niemeyer, 1895.

THERE has been no lack of new outline grammars of Old English within the past few years. In this country alone three such books have been brought out in two years: in 1893 Hempl's *Old-English Phonology*; in 1894 Cook's *First Book in Old English*, and Bright's *Outline of Anglo-Saxon Grammar*; each containing some new features of its own which have recommended it to the use of students. Sievers' *Abriss der angelsächsischen Grammatik* is another valuable addition to the working library of the student of Old English, and one that claims our close attention, coming, as it does, from the greatest authority on this subject.

Sievers' *Angelsächsische Grammatik*, first published in 1882, is a landmark in the history of Old English grammars. It may be said to introduce a third period, just as Hickes' *Institutiones Grammaticæ Anglo-saxonicæ, et Mæso gothicæ* (1689) opened the first, and Rask's *Angelsaksisk Sproglære* (1817) the second period. It superannuated the long list of Old English grammars written in this century more or less under the influence of Rask and Grimm; it was the first really trustworthy modern handbook for the study of the language. By adhering to the sound basis of the West-Saxon prose and discriminating between earlier and later forms, Professor Sievers reduced to order the perplexing mass of material recorded in previous grammars, and

thus laid a solid foundation for further fruitful research. His work—to quote Henry Sweet's words—"has indeed lighted up the obscure and tortuous paths of Old English dialectology and linguistic chronology in much the same way as Bopp's grammar lighted up the intricacies of Arian philology." Sweet himself had pointed the way and done the pioneer work: to Sievers is due the consummation of the labors for bringing Old English grammar up to date. Works published or republished since 1882 in which this great progress had not been sufficiently taken notice of (for example, Theodor Müller's *Angelsächsische Grammatik*, ed. by Hilmer, 1883, and Körner's *Angelsächsische Laut- und Formenlehre*, 2d ed. by Socin, 1887), were in a measure antiquated from the very beginning.

The second edition of Sievers' grammar (1886) received important additions, chiefly from the author's own collections; and in this form, both in the original German version and in Professor Cook's English translation, it has held its honored place for nearly ten years. In the meantime our knowledge has been variously supplemented in details, and in particular the intelligent, systematic investigation of the different dialects has been carried on energetically by such scholars as Cosijn, Napier, Cook, Brown, Lindelöf, and others. A comprehensive presentation of all the results of recent research (by himself and others) is eagerly awaited from the pen of Professor Sievers. We regret to learn that no term can yet beset for the completion of the third edition of his grammar. But, as a forerunner to it, we welcome gladly the brief *Abriss*, which forms the second number in the series of 'Abrisse' published parallel with the 'Sammlung kurzer Grammatiken germanischer Dialekte.'

What strikes us first in glancing over this book, is the evidence it gives of the desire for simplification and more practical treatment recognized by this time in the author's country. In England the want of a simple, practical grammar for beginners had been supplied by the grammatical sketch in Sweet's *Anglo-Saxon Reader*, and especially in his admirable *Anglo-Saxon Primer* issued (in 1882) about six years after the first appearance of the

Reader;—for we may leave out of account Earle's *Book for the Beginner in Anglo-Saxon*. It is also noteworthy that the grammatical introduction in the latest (seventh) edition of Sweet's *Reader* (1894) has been recast, obviously with a view to facilitate its use, if not to simplify it. America has recently been well provided with practical handbooks by Hempl, Bright, and Cook. A Dutch scholar has written one in German (Cosijn, *Kurzgefasste altwestsächsische Grammatik*, 2d ed. 1893). Joseph Wright's *Old High-German, Middle High-German, and Gothic Primers*, and Sweet's *Icelandic Primer*, published between 1886 and 1892, testify to the same general tendency.

The two avowed objects of Sievers' *Abriss* are to serve as a basis for lectures on Old English grammar and to furnish beginners with the immediately needed grammatical help for the reading of texts. To meet the former of these objects, the comparative point of view has been made particularly prominent, more so than in Sievers' larger 'Grammar.' The author has, indeed, refrained from references to Indo-European relations and has certainly done well in giving up the terms *o-*, and *â-declension* in favor of *a-*, and *ô-declension* respectively. But the relation of Old English to the other Teutonic dialects has been constantly kept in view. In the sections on phonology the representation of the Teutonic sounds in Gothic, Old Saxon and Old High-German has been mentioned. The West Germanic stage of the vowels has been omitted, but that of the consonants has been added (§23),—a decided improvement. As regards the inflections, we find, in addition to the Gothic paradigms of the pronouns and frequent illustrations from the Gothic as well as occasional ones from the High-German, the paradigms of the (much neglected) Old Saxon given throughout parallel with those of the Old English.

Practical considerations seem to have led Sievers to a remarkable change of principle. Though he does not expressly state it, he has practically made the Late West-Saxon the basis in preference to the Early West-Saxon. Thus he gives *y* and *ý* as the 'gemeinags,' form of the *i*-umlaut of *ea*, *eo* and *éa*, *éo*; *i*,

y as the 'gemeinags,' equivalent of Early West-Saxon *ie* from *ē* after palatals (§8.2, §9.2, §17, §18); and he regulates the use of the symbols *p* and *þ* so as to employ in initial position *p*, otherwise *þ* (§37; cf. *Gr.* 2, §199). At the same time all the chief peculiarities of the other dialects and of the poetical texts have been carefully pointed out in the notes. Nor has chronology been neglected. Besides mentioning occasionally special features of the oldest texts and characterizing late forms as such, the full paradigm of the oldest forms of the conjugation has been given, together with the standard Old English forms. In a few cases the author's terminology appears a little ambiguous; for example, when he speaks of West-Saxon, Anglian and 'the other dialects' (§88, n. 1.; cf. *Gr.* 2, §371, n.), or of 'some Anglian dialects' (§9, n. 4); certainly a brief introductory remark about the dialectal divisions would have been welcome.

The arrangement of the material is deserving of unqualified praise. Part of the credit is no doubt (cf. the Preface) due to Professor Braune, whose 'Abriss' of the Old High-German Grammar has been the model for this work. A uniform plan runs through the book. In the treatment of the vowels and of the consonants first the special rules affecting certain groups of sounds (*i*-umlaut, breaking, contraction, grammatical change, etc.) are set forth, and then the regular development of each sound is traced. The result is a marked simplification and clearness, as may be seen at a glance from the account of *a*, *e*, *i*, *u* (§§8-10). Similarly, in the strong verbs, the deviations from the simple paradigm forms that are caused by phonological peculiarities (for example, expansion by *jo*-suffix, grammatical change, contraction) have been prefixed to the exposition of the ablaut classes,—the best and most concise formulation we know of. The account of the declensions is substantially unchanged, though, of course, greatly abridged and simplified, sometimes by transposition (cf. §45, n. 2—*Gr.* 2 §§280-290; §50—*Gr.* 2 §279).

In condensing the material Sievers has been eminently successful. On fifty-six pages and two tables containing the paradigms of the verbs, he has presented all that is essential in

his 'Grámmar.' Only in some exceptional instances it would seem that a word of explanation has been left out. We miss a remark about the *phonetic* value of *x*, when used for *hs* (§38, n. 2; §42c; cf. Hempl, *Old-English Phonology*, §§60 ii, 84, 90, 4 n.). That no mention has been made of the relative particle *ðe* (cf. §82), that nothing has been said about the use of the strong and the weak form of the adjective, and almost nothing about the adverb (cf. §§68, n. 3; 71, n. 3; §73), can hardly be charged as a fault against a book which excludes word-formation and syntax. But this brings home to us again the urgent need of an adequate, up-to-date treatment of these important subjects. We have not yet a complete Old English Grammar.

Of additions and changes in detail we may mention the rule of the disappearance of medial *w* after consonants in West Germanic (§26, n. 3); the designation of the rune for *w* as *wyn*, no longer as *wén* (§26, n. 1; cf. *Gr.* 2, §171); the form **frignjan* as the prototype of *frignan* (§91, n. 8); the meaning '*einzelu*,' besides '*einzig*,' for the plural of *án*—apparently as an explanation of *ánra gehwylc* (§74). We are surprised to find *mugon* (§104) substituted for *magon* (*Gr.* 2, §424); *lësan* (*lesen*) (§93, n. 1; *Gr.* 2, §391, n. 1: *sammeln*) is ambiguous. Of misprints not mentioned in *Anglia*, *Beiblatt* vi, 129 ff., or *Englische Studien* xxii, 73 f., we have noticed in §24, n. 1, 1. line: Germ. *w*—*γw* for : Germ. *hw*—*γw*; in §19, n. 1, 3. line: §58 for : §59.

In summing up, we would say that Sievers has solved a difficult problem most satisfactorily. He has not said much that is new, but he has put many things in a new way. We venture to predict an extensive use of the book in Germany; and it seems to us that also in this country it could very profitably be used with advanced classes. Those who work with Sievers' *Grammar*, will make no mistake in securing this *Abriss* besides. It is an excellent work of its kind, similar to Joseph Wright's *Gothic Primer*, and may be especially recommended to those who have worked through the latter book.

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FRENCH LITERATURE.

Eugénie Grandet par Honoré de Balzac. Edited with introduction and notes by EUGENE BERGERON, Assistant Professor in the University of Chicago. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 8vo, pp. xxi, 280. 1895. With portrait.

La Frontière par Jules Claretie. Edited, with an introduction and explanatory notes in English, by CHARLES A. EGGERT, Ph. D., L. L. B., New York: William R. Jenkins, 16 mo., paper, pp. vii, 126. 1895. 25 cents.

Selected Essays from Sainte-Beuve. With introduction, bibliography and notes by JOHN R. EFFINGER, JR., Instructor in French, University of Michigan. Boston: Ginn & Co., 8vo, pp. xii, 118. 1895.

INCREASED attention has been called to Balzac in this country during the past year. Of much interest to English readers—who have not the Balzacian French under control—has been the appearance of a new and presumably superior translation of the novelist, with introductions by George Saintsbury. The edition is from the Macmillan house, is illustrated, and has, at present writing, reached its eighth volume. It has given an opportunity for renewed study of the author's aims and methods, and has allowed "another last word" to be said in criticism of his realism.

Of not less interest to teachers and students of French is the first American edition, in the original, of the masterpiece in fiction that is considered by many to be Balzac's best work. *Eugénie Grandet*, in an edition issued by Hachette et Cie., has been used to some extent in this country, but was, I think, found insufficient and incomplete. A very welcome addition to our material for teaching French literature is the full and well printed edition of Professor Bergeron. It supplies a real need.

The editor's preface of three pages addresses, to the student who is unacquainted with Balzac, some general suggestions upon the quality and nature of his theme. I have recently seen, in a short book-notice, this preface rated as "somewhat perfunctory." I think the criticism unjust; the fact, however, of such remarks being very general, may tend